

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A system for appendage elevation comprising:

a first base adapted to rest on a flat surface;

a first base attachment member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first base attachment member being operably attached to and extending from said first base such that said first base attachment member is supported by said first base, said second end of said first base attachment member defining a hollow space;

a generally planar horizontal frame adapted to be supported between opposing surfaces;

a second base attachment member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said second base attachment member being operably attached to and extending from said horizontal frame such that said horizontal frame supports said second base attachment member, said second end of said second base attachment member defining a hollow space;

a support assembly having a first end and a second end;

a hook, operably attached near said first end of said support assembly;

a connector having a first end and a second end, said first end of said connector being operably attached to said second end of said support assembly, said second end of said connector being removably insertable into said first base or said second base, and said second end of said connector defining a hollow space;

a first groove originating at said second end of said connector and extending into said connector in a longitudinal fashion relative to said support assembly;

a second groove originating at said second end of said connector and extending into said connector, substantially parallel to said first groove and in a longitudinal fashion relative to said support assembly;

a tongue formed between said first groove and said second groove, said tongue having a first end and a second end, said first end of said tongue being attached to said second end of said connector, said second end of said tongue being moveable between a normal position wherein said tongue is substantially aligned with said second end of said connector and a tensioned position wherein said tongue is moved into said substantially hollow area of said second end of said connector, said tongue being biased towards said normal position, and said tongue being adapted to frictionally engage an inside surface of said first base or an inside surface of said second base;

wherein said tongue further comprises a raised portion near said second end of said tongue, said raised portion being adapted to frictionally engage said inside surface of said first base or said inside surface of said second base when said tongue is released from said tensioned position thereby allowing said raised portion of said tongue to contact said inside surface of said first base or said inside surface of said second base when said connector is inserted into said first base or said second base;

a sling assembly having a first outer side covered in looped fabric and a second outer side covered in looped fabric;

a ring adapted to be placed on said hook;

a first strap of fabric-engaging hooks having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first strap being attached to said ring and said second end of said first strap being removably attached to the first outer side of said sling assembly; and

a second strap of fabric-engaging hooks and having a first end and a second end, said first end of said second strap being attached to said ring and said second end of said second strap being removably attached to the second outer side of said sling assembly.

Claims 21-23. (cancelled)

24. (original) A system for appendage elevation comprising:

a first base adapted to rest on a flat surface;

a first base attachment member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first base attachment member being operably attached to and extending from said first base such that said first base attachment member is supported by said first base, said second end of said first base attachment member defining a hollow space;

a horizontal frame having a first end and a second end, said first end of said horizontal frame being adapted to be supported between opposing surfaces, and said second end of said horizontal frame defining a first pair of opposing apertures;

a T-connector having a base portion and a perpendicular portion, said base portion of said T-connector being adapted to allow insertion of said second end of said horizontal frame such that said T-connector rotates freely about said horizontal frame, and said base portion of said T-connector defining a second pair of opposing apertures adapted such that said second pair of opposing apertures can be aligned with said first pair of opposing apertures in said horizontal frame, said perpendicular portion of said T-connector defining a hollow space to receive said second end of said connector; and

a pin adapted to slide into and pass through said first pair of opposing apertures in said horizontal frame and said second pair of opposing apertures in said base portion of said T-connector to secure said T-connector in a desired position relative to said horizontal frame;

a support assembly having a first end and a second end;

a hook, operably attached near said first end of said support assembly;

a connector having a first end and a second end, said first end operably attached to said second end of said support assembly, and said second end being removably insertable into said first base or said second base;

a sling assembly having a first outer side covered in looped fabric and a second outer side covered in looped fabric;

a ring adapted to be placed on said hook;

a first strap of fabric-engaging hooks having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first strap being attached to said ring and said second end of said first strap being removably attached to the first outer side of said sling assembly; and

a second strap of fabric-engaging hooks and having a first end and a second end, said first end of said second strap being attached to said ring and said second end of said second strap being removably attached to the second outer side of said sling assembly.

25. (original) The system according to Claim 24 wherein said support assembly comprises:
 - a first support section having a first end and a second end;
 - a second support section having a first end and a second end, said first end of said second support section being telescopically insertable into said second end of said first support section; and
 - a means to selectively secure said first end of said second support section in a telescopic fashion relative to said second end of said first support section.
26. (original) The system according to Claim 25 wherein said means to selectively secure said first end of said second support section in a telescopic fashion relative to said second end of said first support section is a clamping device.
27. (original) The system according to Claim 24 wherein said second end of said connector comprises:
 - a first groove originating at said second end of said connector and extending into said connector in a longitudinal fashion relative to said support assembly; and
 - a second groove originating at said second end of said connector and extending into said connector, substantially parallel to said first groove and in a longitudinal fashion relative to said support assembly.
28. (original) The system according to Claim 27 wherein said first groove and said second groove define a tongue having a first end and a second end, said first end of said tongue being attached to said second end of said connector, said second end of said tongue being moveable between a normal position wherein said tongue is substantially aligned with said second end of said connector and a tensioned position wherein said tongue is moved into said substantially hollow area of said second end of said connector, said tongue being biased towards said normal position, and said tongue being adapted to frictionally engage an inside surface of said first base or an inside surface of said second base.

29. (original) The system according to Claim 28 wherein said tongue further comprises a raised portion near said second end of said tongue, said raised portion being adapted to frictionally engage said inside surface of said first base or said inside surface of said second base when said tongue is released from said tensioned position thereby allowing said raised portion of said tongue to contact said inside surface of said first base or said inside surface of said second base when said connector is inserted into said first base or said second base.

30. (previously presented) A system for appendage elevation comprising:

a first base comprising a weighted portion adapted to rest on a flat surface and a first base attachment member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first base attachment member being operably attached to and extending from said weighted portion such that said first base attachment member is supported by said weighted portion, and said second end of said first base attachment member defining a hollow space to receive a second end of a connector;

a second base adapted to be supported between opposing surfaces, said second base comprising a horizontal frame having a first end and a second end, said first end of said horizontal frame being adapted to be supported between two opposing surfaces, and said second end of said horizontal frame defining a first pair of opposing apertures; a T-connector having a base portion and a perpendicular portion, said base portion of said T-connector being adapted to allow insertion of said second end of said horizontal frame such that said T-connector rotates freely about said horizontal frame, and said base portion of said T-connector defining a second pair of opposing apertures adapted such that said second pair of opposing apertures can be aligned with said first pair of opposing apertures in said horizontal frame, said perpendicular portion of said T-connector defining a hollow space to receive said second end of said connector; and a pin adapted to slide into and pass through said first pair of opposing apertures in said horizontal frame and said second pair of opposing apertures in said base portion of said T-connector to secure said T-connector in a desired position relative to said horizontal frame;

a support assembly having a first end and a second end;

a hook, operably attached near said first end of said support assembly;
said connector further comprising a first end in addition to said second end, said first end
of said connector being operably attached to said second end of said support
assembly, and said second end of said connector being removably insertable into
said first base and said second base;
a sling assembly; and
a means for removably attaching said sling assembly to said hook.

31. (previously presented) A system for appendage elevation comprising:
 - a first base;
 - a second base adapted to be supported between opposing surfaces, said second base comprising a horizontal frame having a first end and a second end, said first end of said horizontal frame being adapted to be supported between two opposing surfaces, and said second end of said horizontal frame defining a first pair of opposing apertures; a T-connector having a base portion and a perpendicular portion, said base portion of said T-connector being adapted to allow insertion of said second end of said horizontal frame such that said T-connector rotates freely about said horizontal frame, and said base portion of said T-connector defining a second pair of opposing apertures adapted such that said second pair of opposing apertures can be aligned with said first pair of opposing apertures in said horizontal frame, said perpendicular portion of said T-connector defining a hollow space to receive a second end of a connector; and a pin adapted to slide into and pass through said first pair of opposing apertures in said horizontal frame and said second pair of opposing apertures in said base portion of said T-connector to secure said T-connector in a desired position relative to said horizontal frame
 - a support assembly having a first end and a second end;
 - a hook, operably attached near said first end of said support assembly;
 - said connector further comprising a first end in addition to said second end, said first end of said connector being operably attached to said second end of said support

assembly, and said second end of said connector being removably insertable into said first base and said second base;
a sling assembly; and
a means for removably attaching said sling assembly to said hook.

32. (currently amended) A system for appendage elevation comprising:
- a first base;
- a second base adapted to be supported between opposing surfaces;
- a support assembly having a first end and a second end;
- a hook, operably attached near said first end of said support assembly;
- a connector having a first end and a second end, said first end of said connector being operably attached to said second end of said support assembly, and said second end of said connector being removably insertable into said first base and said second base, wherein said second end of said connector defines a substantially hollow area and said second end of said connector comprises a first groove originating at said second end of said connector and extending into said connector in a longitudinal fashion relative to said support assembly, and a second groove originating at said second end of said connector and extending into said connector, substantially parallel to said first groove and in a longitudinal fashion relative to said support assembly;
- wherein said first groove and said second groove define a tongue having a first end and a second end, said first end of said tongue being attached to said second end of said connector, said second end of said tongue being moveable between a normal position wherein said tongue is substantially aligned with said second end of said connector and a tensioned position wherein said tongue is moved into said substantially hollow area of said second end of said connector, said tongue being biased towards said normal position, and said tongue being adapted to frictionally engage an inside surface of said first base or an inside surface of said second base;
- wherein said tongue further comprises a raised portion near said second end of said tongue, said raised portion being adapted to frictionally engage said inside surface of said first base or said inside surface of said second base when said tongue is

released from said tensioned position thereby allowing said raised portion of said tongue to contact said inside surface of said first base or said inside surface of said second base when said connector is inserted into said first base or said second base;

a sling assembly; and

a means for removably attaching said sling assembly to said hook.